



Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy Dr. Warren "Pete" Miller (center), visited INL this week with his principal deputy assistant secretary Peter Lyons. Miller and Lyons are the top two officials at the Department of Energy's Office of Nuclear Energy.

## Leader of DOE's Nuclear Energy Office visits INL

by [Nicole Stricker](#), *INL Communications & Public Affairs*

Idaho National Laboratory leaders were honored to host a visit from the top two officials at the [U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Nuclear Energy](#) this month.

Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy Dr. Warren "Pete" Miller met with numerous INL leaders to discuss nuclear energy issues important to both organizations. Peter Lyons, Miller's principal deputy assistant secretary, joined him for the visit. They spent two days speaking with INL managers, DOE employees and local media about the future of nuclear energy and INL.

"Every interaction I've had in the administration, at every level, has been extremely encouraging to me and supportive of nuclear energy," Miller said at a Sept. 22 press conference in Idaho Falls. "I will work with [INL Laboratory Director] John Grossenbacher and the staff here at INL to try to maximize their capabilities in meeting the goals of the administration."

INL is the only national lab overseen directly by DOE's Office of Nuclear Energy, which leads DOE efforts to explore and develop advanced nuclear science and technology. In August, Miller was confirmed by the U.S. Senate to head that office; he is awaiting Senate confirmation as director of the DOE's [Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management](#).



*INL's Jim O'Brien discusses hydrogen research with Miller and Lyons.*



**[Watch a video of Miller's excerpted press conference comments.](#)**

Before his nomination, Miller had been serving as a part-time professor at [Texas A&M University](#). He is originally from Chicago and graduated from the [United States Military Academy at West Point](#). He earned a doctorate in nuclear engineering from [Northwestern University](#) and served for many years as a researcher and administrator at [Los Alamos National Laboratory](#), retiring in 2001.

During his two-day INL visit, Miller learned about many INL programs and initiatives. He also made time for a press conference with local media.

Grossenbacher highlighted Miller's qualifications during introductory remarks, calling him "extraordinarily well-qualified to lead the Office of Nuclear Energy and the country in a very important endeavor."

In comments to reporters, Miller described the Obama administration's goals related to the environment, energy and nuclear power. He also outlined three nuclear energy goals: Breaking ground on new (so-called Generation III+) reactors, strengthening long-term research and development efforts for advanced reactors, and helping safely extend the lives of the current nuclear energy reactor fleet that produces 70 percent of the nation's emission-free electricity.

"That would be tremendous because this fleet produces electricity as cheaply as any other source there is," he said.

"Idaho National Laboratory has an immensely important role in achieving these goals. I, and my colleague Dr. Lyons, have been very impressed with what we've seen here at the laboratory. I think the people of the state of Idaho ought to be quite proud of what's happening here in Idaho Falls because we certainly are."

In response to a question about what Idaho Falls residents should know about INL, Miller emphasized the lab's employees.

"What people need to know is their neighbors who work here are first tremendously excited about what they're doing and they have a national service in their heart," he said. "I think they're quite proud of what they do. I think they have a great sense of integrity. I think they're fun, I think they laugh, and I think they enjoy what they do and they work very, very hard at what they do. And I

very much appreciate them."

Watch local newscasts of the press conference from [KPVI](#) and [KIFI](#).

Learn more about INL's [Nuclear Science & Technology programs](#).

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*Miller met Idaho Falls Mayor Jared Fuhriman at a community event.*